IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. - 20. (previously canceled)

21. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a topical cosmetic formulation, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol containing starting material~~, said starting material~~ comprising at least one ~~fatty alcohol selected from the group consisting~~ of castor oil, lesquerella oil, isopropyl jojobate, octyl dodecanol, oleyl alcohol and jojoba alcohol ~~and at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil~~;

acylating said ~~fatty alcohol~~ starting material with an acylating agent having between 1 and 5 carbons to produce an acylated product that demonstrates increased spreading properties as compared with the spreading properties of the starting material prior to acylation; and

compounding the acylated product ~~with~~ in at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi- and solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, a mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said step of acylating said ~~fatty alcohol~~ starting material comprises introducing at least one acylating agent selected from the group consisting of acetyl chloride, acetic anhydride, butyryl chloride, butyric anhydride, propyryl chloride and propyric anhydride to said ~~fatty alcohol~~ starting material.

23. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said ~~fatty alcohol composition~~ starting material comprises at least one of a wax and an oil.

24. (previously canceled).

25. (previously canceled).

26. (previously canceled).

27. (previously canceled).

28. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a topical cosmetic formulation, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol containing starting material~~, said starting material~~ comprising at least one ~~fatty alcohol selected from the group consisting~~ of castor oil, lesquerella oil, isopropyl jojobate, octyl dodecanol, oleyl alcohol and jojoba alcohol ~~and at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil; and~~;

introducing at least one acylating agent to said composition, wherein said acylating agent comprises at least one of ~~$R_1C{=}OOR$~~ $R_1C(=O)OC(=O)R$ and $R_1C{=}OCl$, where R_1 comprises an alkyl substituent of the acyl group having between 1 and 5 carbons, and R comprises an organic carbon-containing residue;

wherein the spreading properties of the resulting acylated ~~fatty alcohol~~ product are substantially increased over the spreading properties of the ~~fatty alcohol composition~~ starting material prior to acylation; and

compounding the acylated product ~~with~~ in at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, a massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi- and solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, a mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye.

29. (previously canceled).

30. (previously canceled).

31. (previously canceled).